

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraphs after paragraph [0035]:

[0036] The network changes a number of active users in a multiuser call. The network comprises: a plurality of communication gateways of a broadband network and a call agent. Each gateway is capable of participating in a multiuser call with a changing number of users. Each gateway comprises a processor for receiving commands from a call agent and changing characteristics of connections associated with the commands gateway in response to commands. The call agent produces commands associated with connections of the multiuser call and in response to the change in the number of users, the commands direct one of the communication gateways to change the destination of a connection of the one gateway where that one gateway is maintained as an origin of that one gateway connection.

[0037] Additionally, for that network, the destination changing connection maintains a bandwidth associated with the destination changing connection; the destination changing maintains an assigned mini-slot associated with the destination changing connection; or the destination change is performed by changing a destination address associated with packets of that one gateway connection.

[0038] A call agent changes a number of users in a multiuser call. The call agent comprises a call signaling block for producing commands associated with connections of the multiuser call, and in response to the change in the number of users, the commands direct one user of the multiuser call to change the destination of a connection of the one user where that one user is maintained as an origin of that connection.

[0039] Additionally, for the call agent, the destination changing connection maintains a bandwidth associated with the destination changing connection; the destination changing connection maintains an assigned mini-slot associated with the destination changing connection; and the destination changing connection changes its destination by changing a destination address associated with packets of the destination changing connection.

[0040] A communication gateway of a broadband telephony network, which is capable of participating in a multiuser call with a changing number of users. A call agent associated with the communication gateway produces commands for directing connections involving the communication gateway. The communication gateway comprises an RF connector and associated tuner for receiving commands and messages over connections of the network and for transmitting messages over connections of the network. A processor has an input configured to receive the received commands and in response to receiving commands associated with the number of users change, changes a destination of messages transmitted by the communication gateway over one of the transmitting connections while maintaining other characteristics of the connection.

[0041] Additionally, for the communication gateway, one of the other characteristics is a bandwidth of the one connection; one of the other characteristics is an assigned mini-slot associated with the one connection; and the destination change of the one connection is performed by changing a destination address associated with packets of the one connection.